

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Ulrich WINDMOLLER et al

Attn: Applications

Serial No.: To be assigned

Filed: January 22, 2002

For: FLOOR PLANK AND METHOD OF MANUFACTURING IT

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to calculation of the filing fee and examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, after the title, but prior to the first line, please insert the following heading:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--

1. Field of the Invention--

Page 1, between the first and second paragraphs, please insert the following heading:

--2. Description of the Related Art--

Page 1, between the second and third paragraphs, please insert the following heading:

--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--

Page 3, between the third and fourth paragraphs, please insert the following heading:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--

Page 3, between the fourth and fifth paragraphs, please insert the following heading:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-21 without prejudice or disclaimer in favor of new claims 22-42 as follows:

--22. A floor plank, in particular a multi-layer pressed laminate panel with a decorative paper (12) in the top walked-on layer, which is impregnated with an aminoplastic resin or similar, wherein the particles of an electrically conducting material are applied to the back of decorative paper (12).

23. The floor plank of claim 22, wherein the electrically conducting material is iron powder.

24. The floor plank of claim 22, wherein the electrically conducting material is a copper powder.

25. The floor plank of claim 22, wherein the electrically conducting material is a powder or a copper-based metal alloy.

26. The floor plank of claim 22, wherein the electrically conducting material is graphite dust.

27. The floor plank of claim 22, wherein the electrically conducting material consists of carbon fibers.

28. The floor plank of claim 22, wherein the electrically conducting material is electrically conductive soot.

29. The floor plank of claim 22, wherein the aminoplastic resin is a melamine resin.

30. The floor plank of claim 22, in which, attached to the back of a support, there is a counteracting layer (16) which prevents the support from curling upwards in the event of shrinkage of the decorative paper, wherein the electrically conducting particles are applied to the counteracting layer (16).

31. A method for manufacturing a floor plank, especially a multi-layer laminate panel pressed in one operation, which, as the top walked-on layer, has a decorative paper (12) impregnated with an aminoplastic resin, wherein the particles of an electrically conducting material are applied to the back of the decorative paper (12) impregnated with a resin.

32. The method of claim 31, wherein the electrically conducting particles are sprinkled onto the fresh, not yet hardened resin.

33. The method of claim 31, wherein the electrically conducting particles consist of graphite dust.

34. The method of claim 31, wherein the electrically conducting particles consist of carbon fibers.

35. The method of claim 31, wherein the electrically conducting particles consist of electrically conductive soot.

36. The method of claim 31, wherein the electrically conducting particles consist of iron powder.

37. The method of claim 31, wherein the electrically conducting particles consist of copper powder.

38. The method of claim 31, wherein the electrically conducting particles consist of the metal powder of a copper alloy.

39. The method of claim 31, wherein the electrically conducting particles are applied to the decorative paper (12) before it is fed through a heating furnace.

40. The method of claim 31, wherein the electrically conducting particles are applied to the decorative paper (12) between the first and second stations of a two-stage impregnating furnace after the initial pre-hardening of the resin.

41. The method of claim 31, wherein the particles of the electrically conducting material are applied in a mixture with the resin to the decorative paper (12).

42. The method of claim 31, wherein the resin is a melamine resin.--

REMARKS

The purpose of the forgoing Amendment is to delete multiple dependent claims and to insert appropriate headings in order to place the application in better form for examination under U.S. practice. No new matter is entered.

Respectfully submitted,



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